

DERMATOLOGY.

 UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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A Fatal Case of Erythema Multiforme Exudativum.—WELANDER (*Archiv f. Dermatologie und Syphilis*, Band lxxvii, Heft 2) under the above caption reports the following case: A young man, aged twenty-three years, who had multiple initial lesions of syphilis upon the penis, was ordered daily inunctions of mercurial ointment, and a hypodermic injection of mercurial oil every five days. At the end of two weeks a conjunctivitis appeared with an erythematous eruption situated upon the backs of the hands and upon the knees, accompanied by mild fever, chills, and malaise. After some days these symptoms began to disappear, but soon a new attack with severe fever and extensive eruption, with swelling and redness of the mucous membrane of the mouth, appeared. The buccal mucous membrane became excoriated, was covered with a grayish-yellow exudate, and was very painful. The fever increased in severity without any new skin symptoms, a nephritis and symptoms referable to the respiratory organs appeared, and the patient finally died with symptoms of general infection. [It seems to us the possibility of this case being one of mercurial poisoning is not excluded.—M. B. H.]

Experiments upon the Action of Light in Hydroa Estivalis.—EHRMANN (*Archiv f. Dermatologie und Syphilis*, Band lxxvii, Heft 2), from a number of experiments made with the Finsen apparatus upon a man the subject of hydroa estivalis, draws the following conclusions:

The summer eruption of Hutchinson or the hydroa estivalis of Bazin is due to a familial, probably hereditary, idiosyncrasy of the skin against the action of the actinic rays of light, and is analogous to epidermolysis bullosa congenita hereditaria, in which there is a hypersensitiveness against mechanical irritation; with this difference, however, that in the latter a diminution of the idiosyncrasy occurs with advancing years and tolerance does not occur as in summer eruption. As being more appropriate, Ehrmann proposes to call the affection epidermolysis or dermatolysis photactinica congenita.

Ringworm with Unusual Localization.—RILLE (*Dermatologische Zeitschrift*, Band xii, Heft 11) at the seventy-seventh meeting of the Deutsch Naturforscher und Aerzte presented a patient with ringworm in a most unusual situation. A man, forty years old, had had for twenty years a diffuse reddening, scaling, and infiltration of the forearms, backs of the hands, and palms, an abundance of fungus elements being demonstrable in the deeper layers of the epidermis. There were also a characteristic ringworm of the finger-nails, a trichophytic blepharitis, and reddening and scaling of the external ear. The skin about the angles

of the mouth was red and scaling, the adjoining mucous membrane and red of the lips were bluish white and thickened. On the borders of the hard and soft palate were irregularly circumscribed macules and epithelial defects, with bluish-white opacities. On the back of the tongue, in the median line, especially the posterior half, were numerous pinhead to hemp-seed-sized, yellowish-red and dark-red, solid-feeling nodules, some of which showed shallow ulcers. A moderate amount of the trichophyton fungus was demonstrable in the lesions in the mouth. The affection of the mouth had lasted about eight years.

Static Electricity in the Treatment of Diseases of the Skin.—SUCHIE (*Dermatologische Zeitschrift*, Band xii) reports a number of cases of chronic eczema, sarcoma, epithelioma, and some parasitic dermatoses in which he has had most successful results from the use of static electricity. Of special interest is the report of a case of mycosis fungoides of three years' duration, which after the failure of all other methods of treatment was apparently completely cured by this agent. The author regards static electricity as of extraordinary value in the treatment of many diseases of the skin, but it is necessary to use strong currents. Undesirable effects are never observed after its employment, even when the current is allowed to act for long periods of time.

A Peculiar Case of Circumscribed Seborrhœa.—MARSCHALKO (*Dermatologische Zeitschrift*, Band xii, Heft 11) reports a peculiar case of profuse circumscribed secretion of sebum occurring in a woman, aged thirty-three years. About eleven months before coming under the author's observation she had received a severe blow with a club in the supra-orbital region, which resulted in a purulent inflammation and was followed by anesthesia in the left supraorbital region. Some time afterward she began to suffer from increasingly severe neuralgic pains, for which she underwent a surgical operation, in which some fragments of bone were removed. The pain continued, however, and gradually a profuse greasy secretion made its appearance upon the injured side. When first seen the patient presented a most peculiar appearance; the left frontal and temporal regions were covered by a sharply circumscribed, dirty brownish-yellow, thick mass the surface of which was divided into polygonal areas as in ichthyosis sebacea. The patient experienced severe pain from the slightest touch, and it was with the greatest difficulty that a portion of the mass, which was slightly adherent, was removed. The skin beneath the crust was somewhat hyperemic, and from the dilated follicles minute drops of half-fluid white fat projected. The secretion was confined to a region corresponding very exactly to the distribution of the supraorbital nerve. In this region there was decided hyperalgesia with hyperthermalgesia. Treatment directed against the abnormal fat-secretion was without result. A second operation was performed on account of the increasing severity of the neuralgia; this was followed by a diminution of the pain and secretion of fat.